

# REGISTRATION DAY TODAY!

MIT's Oldest and  
Largest Newspaper

[tech.mit.edu](http://tech.mit.edu)



Volume 132, Number 34

## WEATHER, p. 2

TUE: 75°F | 68°F

Cloudy.

WED: 77°F | 64°F

Rain showers.

THU: 79°F | 67°F

Partly sunny

Tuesday, September 4, 2012

## Summer recap

RLADs, new edX partner,  
Institute files amicus brief

As you enjoy your burrito from the new Chipotle that opened up in Kendall this June, you may wonder what else has changed on campus over the summer. Here's a summary of some of the topics *The Tech* has covered to get you up to speed.

### New RLAD position stirs controversy and debate

This fall, many dormitories will see new faces in their house teams in the form of Residential Life Area Directors (RLADs). RLADs will live in the dorms and assist housemasters and Graduate Resident Tutors (GRTs) with administrative and operational tasks. These changes were revealed June 2, when an anonymous source leaked a letter, written by Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD '80 to MIT housemasters, which spoke of imminent changes in residential life. The information caught many students and GRTs off-guard, sparking campuswide controversy and debate.

After the letter was leaked, the administration continued to move for-

ward with the implementation of the RLAD system.

"It was not our intent to roll out the position the way we did," said Henry J. Humphreys, dean of residential life and dining. "Once we decided to go forward, we needed to move quickly, as the window for hiring officials for the position in the summer is small."

The official RLAD job description was released July 23, and stated that the responsibilities of the RLADs would include working to promote a sense of community and belonging, following up with residents on "medical, psychological, and personal issues," providing updates to house teams and the Department of Student Life, and "support[ing] the housemasters in their roles as the supervisors of the GRTs."

On-campus interviews for the RLAD positions began mid-July, and by early August five candidates were hired to serve in MacGregor Hall, McCormick Hall, New House, Next House, and Simmons Hall.

Summer, Page 15



An MIT student focuses intently during a chess match at the MIT Chess Club's table at the ASA Activities Midway. Over 200 ASA groups were represented at the Midway, which was held on last Friday in the Johnson Athletic Center.

## IN SHORT

Classes start tomorrow! Don't forget to wake up in time!

Interested in seeing a movie? The Lecture Series Committee is playing *The Hunger Games* at 6:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. today, and new students get in free! Women's and Gender Studies is also hosting a free screening of *Hysteria*, directed by Tanya Wexler.

The MIT Writing Center, which serves the entire community, will be open for the first appointments of the year tomorrow. Go to <http://writing.mit.edu/wcc> to schedule a slot.

Start volunteering! Find an opportunity at the MIT Community Service Fair tomorrow at 1 p.m. in Lobby 10. Learn more at <http://mit.edu/mitpsc/whatwedo/volunteering/programs/servicefair>.

Send news information and tips to [news@tech.mit.edu](mailto:news@tech.mit.edu).

## Major players in online education market

Comparing Khan Academy, Coursera, Udacity, & edX missions, offerings

By Bruno B.F. Faviero  
STAFF REPORTER

With most new markets comes competition, as is the case with online education. Today, there are four major platforms that produce content specifically for online instruction: Coursera, Udacity, and edX, which provide university-level content, and Khan Academy, which largely targets

K-12 education. While they all offer content designed specifically for web-based instruction, they differ slightly in missions, delivery, and focus.

### KHAN ACADEMY

Khan Academy is an educational nonprofit founded in September 2008 by Salman A. Khan '98. According to its website, its mission is to "change education for the better by providing

a free world-class education for anyone anywhere."

Khan conceived the idea after making a website to help tutor his niece in 2004, and two years later he would post the first public video. The website has since grown to contain over 3,300 videos, most of which were made by Khan himself. There are also over 400 million interactive problems, grouped loosely into 47

Education, Page 8

INFOGRAPHIC BY KATH XU AND CONNOR KIRSCHBAUM—THE TECH

### MIT'S FIRST ONLINE COURSE: How did the world do?

#### REGISTRATION

**154,763**

registered for 6.002x after registration opened on February 13, 2012

#### THE FIRST PSET

students who looked at the first pset:

**69,221**

students who received at least 1 point on the first pset:

**26,349**

#### THE FINAL EXAM

students who looked at the final exam:

**10,262**

students who received at least 1 point on the final exam:

**8,240**

students who passed the final exam:

**5,800**

#### CERTIFICATION

students who received a certificate after Week 14:

**7,157**

## WELCOME BACK TO CAMPUS!

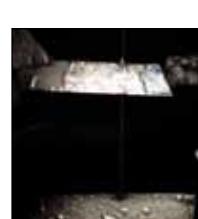
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### HOW DID FROSH LIKE REX?

Looking back at the week. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 5**

### PICKING A SORORITY

The choice can be tough. **CAMPUS LIFE, p. 5**



### A LONE SHIMMER

An up-close view of the MIT Chapel's metal sculpture. **PHOTO, p. 9**

### GRAD STUDENT EVENTS THIS WEEK

See what the GSC has lined up! **GSC, p. 10**

### SECTIONS

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## In Beijing, Clinton to discuss island disputes

BEIJING — As tensions between China and its neighbors over islands in nearby strategic waterways, China has scored some subtle victories, making the United States and its friends increasingly uneasy about the potential for violent confrontations.

China's dispute with Japan over potentially energy-rich islands in the East China Sea, and with the Philippines over an island that China has effectively blocked to Filipino vessels, will be central in talks between U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chinese leaders in Beijing on Tuesday evening and on Wednesday, U.S. and Chinese officials said.

"We will need the nations of the region to work collaboratively together to resolve disputes — without coercion, without intimidating, without threats and, certainly, without the use of force," Clinton said Monday evening after arriving in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta.

*—Jane Perlez and Steven Lee Myers, The New York Times*

## After verdict, South Korea assesses Samsung strategy

SEOUL, South Korea — When a jury in San Jose, Calif., ordered Samsung Electronics to pay \$1.05 billion in damages for violating Apple's patents for the iPhone and iPad, it did more than decide who had infringed upon whose intellectual property. To South Koreans, the legal battle highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of both Samsung and their economy in general.

"The ruling makes us reconsider the brand value of Samsung because it depicts Samsung as a copycat," said James Song, who monitors Samsung for KDB Daewoo Securities in Seoul. "But a copycat or not, what Samsung has done with its smartphones was a brilliant move."

"Look what has happened to companies like Nokia, Motorola and BlackBerry, which didn't do as Samsung did," Song added, referring to competitors whose failures to adapt quickly to the smartphone boom driven by iPhones have drastically reduced their market shares. "Samsung may lack in innovation, but right now, no one can beat Samsung in playing catch-up."

For months, the South Korean media have watched avidly as Samsung, the world's largest technology company by sales, clashes with Apple, the world's No. 1 company by market value, over patent lawsuits in various countries.

*—Choe Sang-hun, The New York Times*

## Murder charges dropped against South African miners

JOHANNESBURG — Prosecutors provisionally dropped murder charges against the 270 jailed miners who had been accused under an obscure legal doctrine of killing 34 of their own colleagues when the police opened fire on them while engaged in a wildcat strike.

The police fired live ammunition into a crowd of about 3,000 platinum miners armed with clubs and machetes while trying to disperse the illegal strike on Aug. 16. When the firing stopped, 34 miners were dead and South Africa was outraged by the bloodiest confrontation between police and civilians since the end of apartheid. The police have claimed they acted in self-defense.

The outrage grew when prosecutors announced last week that under a legal doctrine known as "common purpose," the miners themselves would be charged with murdering their colleagues. Under the doctrine, which was frequently used in the waning days of apartheid to charge members of protesting crowds with serious crimes committed by a few individuals, people in a mob can be charged as accomplices.

*—Lydia Polgreen, The New York Times*

# U.S. prepares economic aid to bolster democracy in Egypt

By Steven Lee Myers

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Nearly 16 months after first pledging to help Egypt's failing economy, the Obama administration is nearing an agreement with the country's new government to relieve \$1 billion of its debt as part of a U.S. and international assistance package intended to bolster its transition to democracy, administration officials said.

The administration's efforts, delayed by Egypt's political turmoil and by wariness in Washington about new leaders emerging from its first free elections, gained new urgency in recent weeks, even as the United States risks losing influence and investment opportunities to countries like China. President Mohammed Morsi chose China for his first official visit outside of the Middle East.

In addition to the debt assistance, the administration has thrown its support behind a \$4.8 billion loan being negotiated between Egypt and the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund. Last week it dispatched the first of two delegations to work out details of the proposed debt assistance, as well as \$375 million in financing and loan guarantees for U.S. financiers who invest in Egypt and a \$60 million investment fund for Egyptian businesses.

The assistance underscores the importance of shoring up Egypt at a time of turmoil and change across the Middle East, including the relatively peaceful uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia, the still-unfinished transition in Libya, the showdown over Iran's nuclear program and the war in Syria.

Given Egypt's influence in the Arab world, the officials said, its economic recovery and political stability could have a profound influence on other nations in transition and ease wariness in Israel about the tumultuous political changes under way.

The administration's revived push came after Morsi won the presidency in June and overcame a constitutional showdown with the country's military rulers.

Morsi and his party, the Muslim Brotherhood, have since made it clear that the struggling economy is their most urgent priority, brushing aside reservations about U.S. and international assistance and outright opposition to it from other Islamic factions.

In fact, U.S. officials say they have been surprised by how open Morsi and his advisers have been to economic changes, with a sharp focus on creating jobs.

"They sound like Republicans half the time," one administration official said, referring to leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamic movement turned political party that was long barred from office under the former president, Hosni Mubarak, a close U.S. ally.

Hoping to capitalize on what they see as a ripening investment climate, the State Department and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will take executives from nearly 50 American companies like Caterpillar and Xerox to Cairo beginning Saturday as part of one of the largest trade delegations ever organized.

## As growth flags, China shies from stimulus

By Bettina Wassener

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HONG KONG — As evidence has mounted that the Chinese economy is slowing, Beijing has kept the world on tenterhooks, delivering none of the big, headline-grabbing economic stimulus measures many analysts have predicted.

Two months have passed since the last interest rate cut, and it looks increasingly as if the Chinese government is biding its time, avoiding measures that could reignite another investment binge of the sort that sent prices for property and other assets soaring in 2009 and 2010.

The authorities are taking "a very reactionary, cautious approach," said Wang Tao, China economist at UBS. "They do not want to repeat the excesses of last time."

The latest sign of China's flagging economic health came Saturday in the form of an official

manufacturing-sector survey. This slumped more than expected, to 49.2 in August, falling below the level of 50 that separates expansion from contraction for the first time since late 2011.

A similar survey, which is published by HSBC and is more focused on smaller and medium-size enterprises, registered a similar deterioration. The final reading, released Monday, came in at 47.6, down from 49.3 in July.

In the eurozone, manufacturing contracted more than initially estimated in August, suggesting that the economy might struggle to avoid a recession in the third quarter, Bloomberg reported.

A gauge of manufacturing in the euro area based on a survey of purchasing managers was revised lower, to 45.1, from the reading of 45.3 estimated earlier, Markit Economics said Monday.

The index, which stood at 44 in

July, has held for 13 months below 50.

Many analysts took the indicators for China as a signal that policymakers would soon announce another cut in the reserve requirement ratio for banks, a step that would free up more cash for them to lend.

Some say Beijing may also cut rates to reinject momentum into an economy that has been battered by falling exports and a slowing domestic property market.

The authorities have not been sitting entirely idle in recent months. Project approvals have been accelerated, for example. However, more than eight weeks have passed since the last rate cut, while the reserve ratio requirement was last lowered in May.

Increasingly, analysts think Beijing is playing for time before it resorts to more sweeping policy tools again.

### WEATHER

## Remnants of Isaac to bring rain to region

By Allison A. Wing

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

After a lovely Labor Day Weekend with sunny skies and seasonal temperatures, rain will return to the area just in time for the start of the semester.

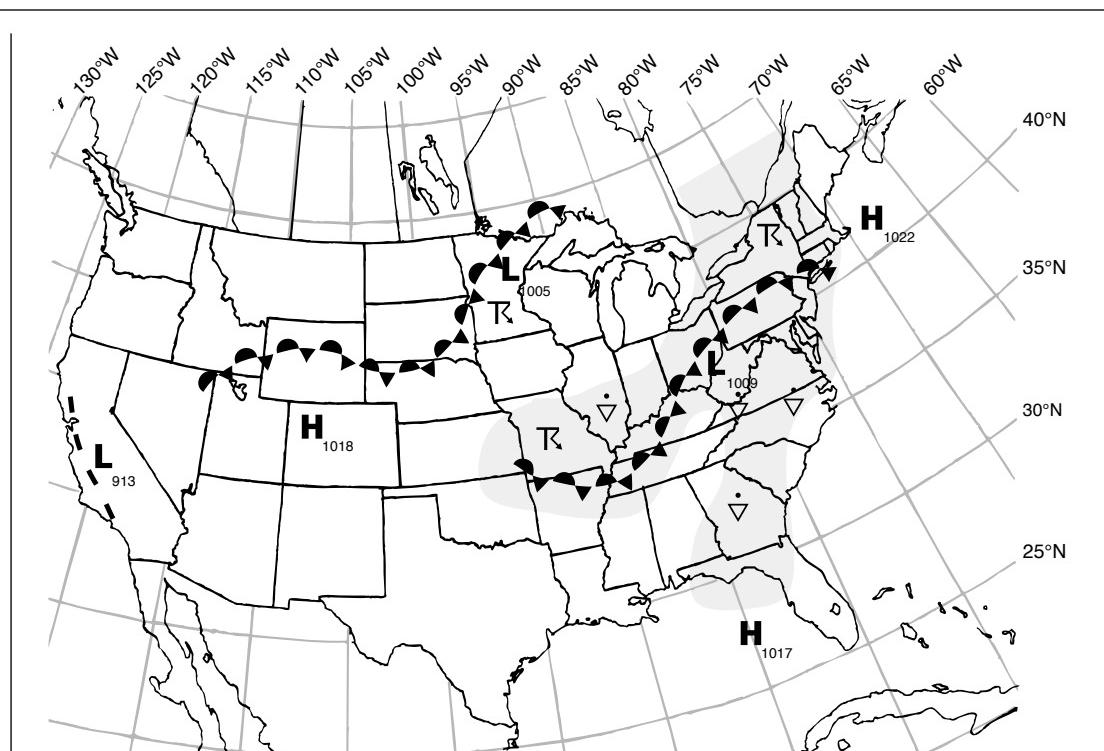
The remnants of what was once Hurricane Isaac, which brought over a foot of rain and a damaging storm surge to southeastern Louisiana and Mississippi last week, will finally make it to the Northeast. While we won't get anything like the 20 inches of rain New Orleans

received from Isaac, the tropical moisture interacting with an existing trough will bring the potential for rain showers this afternoon through tomorrow.

While some showers are possible this afternoon, it looks like the bulk of the rain will hold off until tonight. Rain showers, which may be heavy at times, are likely to be in the area through tomorrow evening, so you definitely want to consider bringing an umbrella with you as you head to your first classes tomorrow morning!

### Extended Forecast

**Today:** Cloudy with showers likely. High 75°F (24°C). Winds from the southeast at 7-10 mph.  
**Tonight:** Rain showers likely. Low 68°F (20°C). Winds from the southeast at 7-10 mph.  
**Tomorrow:** Rain showers. High 77°F (25°C). Low 64°F (18°C). Winds from the south/southeast at 8-12 mph.  
**Thursday:** Partly sunny. High 79°F (16°C). Low 67°F (19°C). Winds from the southwest at 5-10 mph.



# US vehicle rammed by suicide bomber in Pakistan

By Ismail Khan  
and Salman Masood  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — A suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden vehicle into a sport utility vehicle belonging to the U.S. Consulate in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Monday morning, Pakistani and U.S. officials said, in one of the most brazen attacks against Americans in the country in recent years.

There were conflicting reports about the number and nationality of the casualties. Pakistani officials said at least two people were killed and at least 13 were injured, including two police officers. The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad confirmed the attack and said in a statement that two Americans and two Pakistani employees of the consulate were injured. It denied early reports that an American had been killed.

A senior Pakistani government official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said a U.S. backup vehicle immediately retrieved the four who were wounded inside the

SUV and took them to the consulate. The official said two Pakistanis were killed outside the vehicle.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which took place in Peshawar, the provincial capital of the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, in a residential area called University Town. It is home to the U.S. Consulate general in Peshawar and U.S. diplomats, as well as workers with international aid agencies, some of which have offices there.

Immediate suspicion pointed to the Taliban, who have repeatedly vowed to attack Americans in the country.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, visiting Indonesia, condemned the attack.

"We pray for the safe recovery of American and Pakistani victims, and once again we deplore the cowardly act of suicide bombing and terrorism that has affected so many people around the world," she said.

The U.S. State Department's spokeswoman, Victoria Nuland, who is traveling with Clinton, said the extent of the victims' injuries

was not immediately known. She said she did not have complete information on casualties outside the vehicle.

"We stand ready to work with Pakistani authorities on a full investigation, so that the perpetrators can be brought to justice," Nuland said.

The U.S. vehicle had left the heavily guarded and fortified consulate building and was passing a U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees guest house on Abdara Road when it was rammed by a vehicle containing at least 200 pounds of explosives, police officials said.

A thick plume of smoke rose over the site after the explosion that could be seen a mile away. The blast left a 5-foot-wide crater in the road.

Firefighters evacuated the injured and doused the burning SUV, which carried a diplomatic corps registration number. A partially burned U.S. passport was recovered from the vehicle.

Police officials said they had issued warnings of a possible terrorist attack in the city and had stepped up surveillance.

# Protesters gather in Charlotte for Democratic Convention

By Viv Bernstein  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Protesters from scores of groups around the country filled the streets of Charlotte on Sunday afternoon to push their agenda as Democrats gathered in the city for their convention.

The list of grievances was long, and it included issues like the crackdown on illegal immigrants, foreclosures across the country, the environment, gay rights, jobs and labor. But the number of protesters who came to Charlotte might not have been what some anticipated.

Police estimates for the crowd were from 800 to 1,000, although an organizer for the coalition of groups marching put the total at 3,000. Either way, it was more than the number who showed up in Tampa, Fla., last week for the Republican National Convention, when a few hundred participated in protests. Organizers had anticipated anywhere from 2,000 to 10,000 protesters in

Charlotte, a major banking city.

The numbers on the streets swelled with the addition of hundreds of police officers from throughout the Southeast. There were two arrests. One was of a female demonstrator who violated a local ordinance by wearing a mask and who the police said was found to be carrying a knife. The other was of a man who was watching the event and was accused of public intoxication and assault on a government official.

But as promised by protesters — and assured by the large police presence — it was a mostly peaceful march that focused on issues on a hot, steamy day.

Among the protesters were illegal immigrants from Phoenix, some wearing T-shirts that read, "Undocumented, Unafraid," and "Arrest Arpaio," referring to Joe Arpaio, the Maricopa County sheriff who has been accused of going after Hispanic immigrants in Arizona.

"We come here because we

are tired of the abuse in the community," said Fernando Lopez, who spoke for the group at a rally in Frazier Park before the march. "We're tired of being incarcerated every single day. We're used as the cheapest labor as migrants. Why? Because the United States has been taking care of its business, which is exploit the rest of the planet."

Bank of America, with its headquarters in Charlotte, was among the main targets of the protesters. The bank continues to be embroiled in controversy over its role in mortgage foreclosures around the country.

Pat McCoy, the director of Action NC, a group that focuses on poverty, called for more robust investigations into lending practices. He said the Department of Justice "until just recently had more people investigating whether Roger Clemens lied to Congress as a baseball pitcher about steroid use than they had investigating the entire U.S. financial system about mortgage fraud."

# Trial set to open for former Detroit mayor Sept. 6

By Steven Yaccino  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

During his nearly seven-year stint as mayor of Detroit, there was little about Kwame M. Kilpatrick that was not big. His 6-foot-4 frame. His "hip-hop mayor" persona and the 1 1/2-carat diamond that pierced his ear. His wide appeal made him, at the age of 31, the youngest person ever to lead the city.

Now, four years since he left office, the criminal charges that Kilpatrick will face when his federal trial begins with jury selection Thursday are no exception in size: more than 30 counts that include racketeering, bribery and fraud during his time in public office.

Kilpatrick, 42, was once considered a rising star in the Democratic Party.

His long-awaited trial, expected to last four months, is the most recent chapter in a series of contro-

versies that plagued his tenure as mayor and ended his promising political career.

The federal charges, filed in 2010, carry far greater stakes than did his previous troubles — up to 30 years in prison — and continue a saga for many in Detroit whose expectations for him once soared. Meanwhile, he has maintained his innocence.

"I know that there are some people in this community who had hopes, dreams and incredible admiration for me and what we were doing in the city at that time," Kilpatrick told the Detroit chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists in August.

Politics seemed always in sight for Kilpatrick, who as a young child dreamed of living in Detroit's mayoral mansion. His mother, Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, was a seven-term congresswoman and a chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus; her career was seen as a

casualty of her son's troubles when she lost re-election in 2010.

Kwame Kilpatrick was 26 years old when he joined the Michigan Legislature in 1996. When he was elected mayor of Detroit in 2001, many hoped that he would lead the economically depressed city toward revival.

He landed speaking rolls at the Democratic National Convention in 2000 and 2004. Some talked about him as a future senator or vice-presidential choice, said Steve Hood, a political consultant in Detroit whose brother, Nicholas Hood III, ran against Kilpatrick in his first mayoral race.

"They bought into the whole package," he said of voters' faith in Kilpatrick back then. "They thought the sky was the limit."

But many of Kilpatrick's achievements were overshadowed by scandal and the perception by some that a collision of youth and power had sent his career spiraling.

# Union jobs in private sector plummet in city

NEW YORK — New York City may have regained all of the jobs it lost during the recession, but its labor unions have not and the steep decline in the past several years may signal a lasting erosion of one of the few remaining bastions of union power, according to the authors of a report to be released this week.

The number of city residents with union jobs in the private sector has dropped nearly 20 percent since the recession started in 2008, the report by scholars at the City University of New York shows. That amounts to a loss of about 95,000 union jobs and a decline twice as steep as that for the rest of the nation, said Ruth Milkman, a sociology professor who wrote the report with Laura Braslow.

"This is a big decrease" and it is not likely to turn around anytime soon, Milkman said. Indeed, as the city's private sector has added jobs at a healthy rate for much of the past two years, the number of union jobs in the public sector rose but private-sector unions did not rebound, she said.

Their study coincided with another report from the Fiscal Policy Institute that found that most of the jobs that have been created in the city during the economic recovery have been in industries that tend to pay low wages, including restaurants, retail stores and home health care.

*—Patrick Mcgeehan, The New York Times*

# With Obama ad, candidates spar over the middle class

As Democrats open their convention week in Charlotte, N.C., the Obama campaign has a new advertisement that doubles down on the president's charges that Mitt Romney's tax policies would harm the middle class.

"The middle class is carrying a heavy load in America," a narrator says in the commercial as images of a forlorn-looking mother and a worker in a hard hat appear on the screen.

"But Mitt Romney doesn't see it," the narrator says, adding, "So Romney hits the middle class harder and gives millionaires an even bigger break. Is that the way forward for America?"

The ad repeats the claim that Romney's economic plans would result in a tax increase for middle-class families while lowering taxes on people in the highest income brackets. A study by the left-leaning Brookings Institution found that to be the case.

The Romney campaign has sought to discredit that study, pointing out that its author served on the president's Council of Economic Advisers.

"The middle class has been crushed under President Obama, but he doesn't seem to get it," said a Romney campaign spokeswoman, Amanda Henneberg.

*—Jeremy W. Peters, The New York Times*

# iPhone announcement has Apple rivals jostling for spotlight

Back when Apple was an underdog, it had an easier time shrouding its product announcements in mystery and perhaps catching its competitors off guard. But now tech companies are watching every one of Apple's moves — and scrambling to get out in front of them.

Several major tech companies are cramming product announcements into this holiday-shortened workweek. Nokia and Motorola Mobility, former leaders in the mobile race who are now also-rans, have scheduled events for Wednesday at which they are likely to unveil new smartphones. And the next day, Amazon is expected to introduce new Kindle devices.

Sony and Samsung, among others, got a jump on things last week with announcements of new tablets and phones at a consumer electronics conference in Berlin.

But next week, the tech event calendar is largely blank — with the exception of an Apple news conference that is said to be scheduled for Sept. 12, where the company will reveal its latest iPhone, according to a person briefed on the company's plans, who declined to be named because those plans had not yet been made public.

*—Brian X. Chen and Nick Wingfield, The New York Times*

# Obama takes a detour to visit hurricane site

KENNER, La. — President Barack Obama took a short detour from campaigning Monday to inspect the damage wrought by Hurricane Isaac last week and the government response, a stop that took on outsized political overtones in this campaign season.

His visit, after a Labor Day rally with union supporters in Toledo, Ohio, came three days after Mitt Romney toured the Louisiana coast Friday a day after accepting his party's nomination in Tampa, Fla. Obama's timing was decided in consultation with local officials, White House aides said, to avoid the presidential entourage getting in the way of the cleanup.

Even as both parties jostled about their respective responses to natural disasters, Obama sounded a nonpartisan note in remarks to reporters after his tour and discussions with officials and residents.

"When disasters like this happen, we set aside whatever petty disagreements we may have," Obama said. "Nobody's a Democrat or Republican. We're all just Americans looking out for each other."

*—Jackie Calmes, The New York Times*

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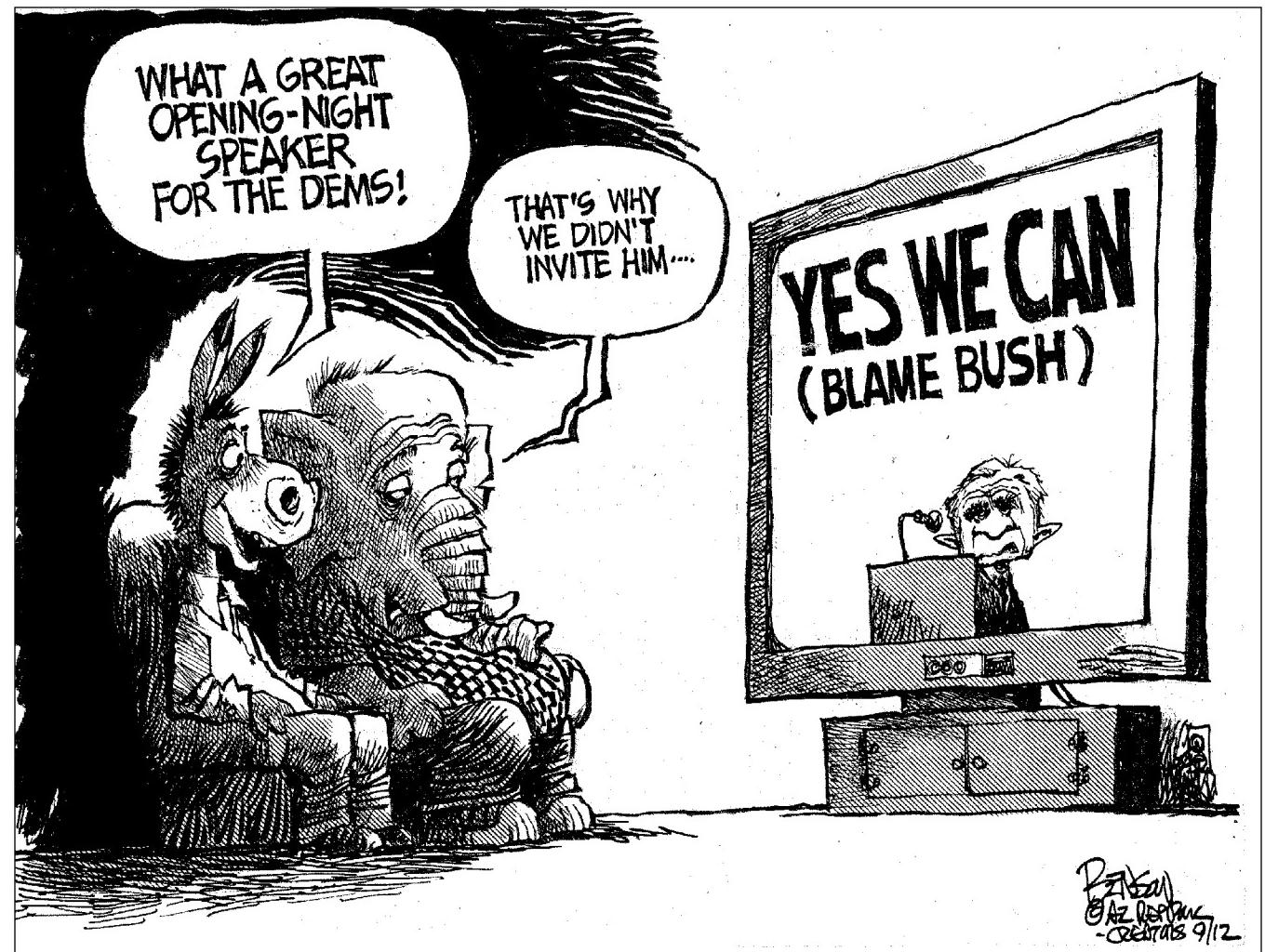
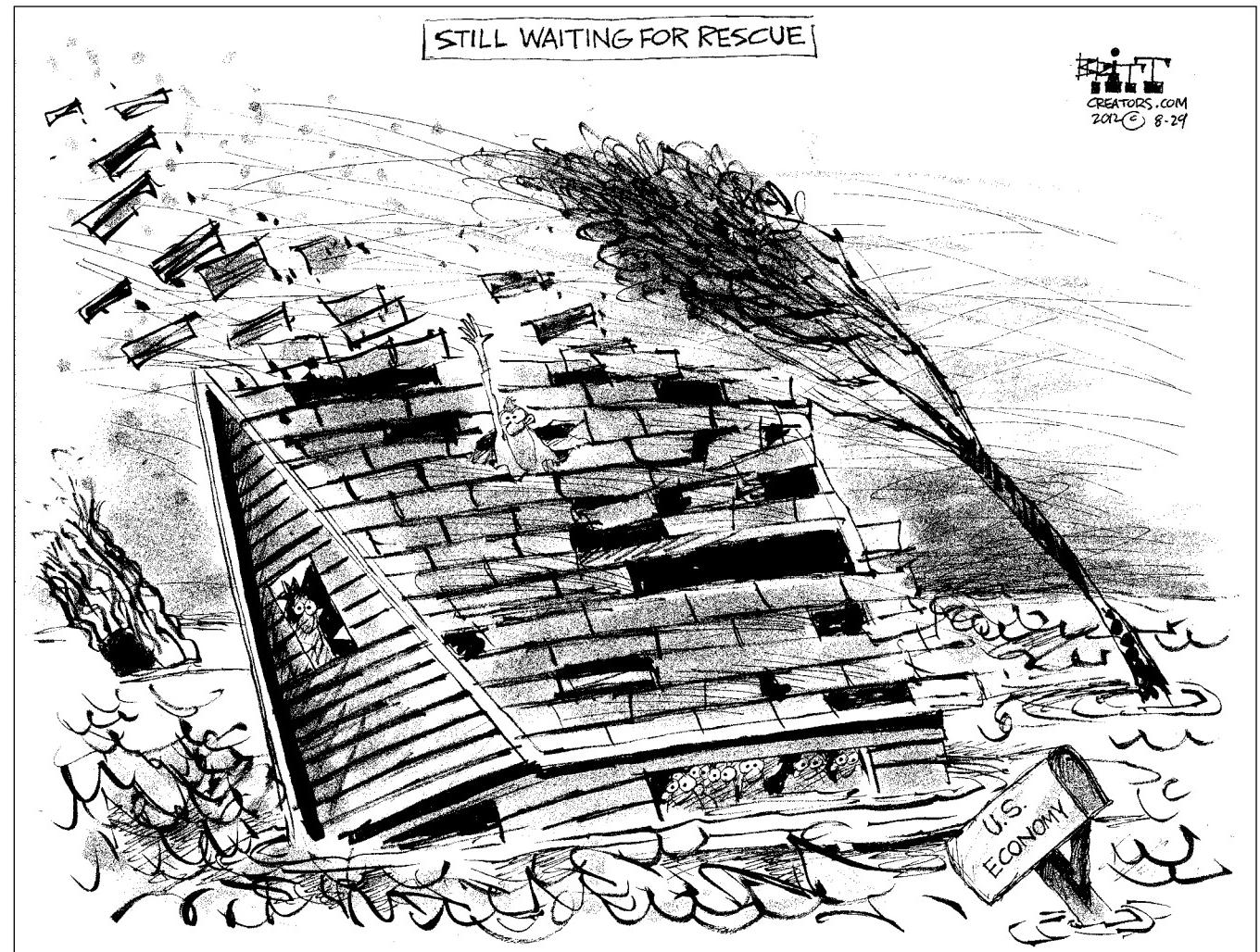
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## CORRECTIONS

Due to an editing error, the events for Sigma Phi Epsilon in the Daily Confusion were incorrectly listed under Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The two fraternities are distinct — the list of events for Sigma Phi Epsilon can be found at <http://tech.mit.edu/V132/>

[N33/dailyconfusion/sigep.html](http://n33/dailyconfusion/sigep.html).

An article published on Friday about the housing lottery incorrectly stated that 753 freshmen ranked Maseeh first in the summer lottery. The number is actually 303. 753 refers to the number of freshmen who ranked Maseeh in their top four choices.

## OPINION POLICY

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the Editorial Board, which consists of Chairman Aislyn Schalck, Editor in Chief Jessica J. Pourian, Managing Editor Connor Kirschbaum, Executive Editor Ethan A. Solomon, and Opinion Editor Andy Liang.

**Dissents** are the signed opinions of editorial board members choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

**Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to [letters@tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@tech.mit.edu). Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters

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TO MINE OWN SELF BE TRUE

# Orientation and REX in review

Despite some repetitive events, freshman enjoyed introduction to MIT overall

**By Maiko Kitaoka**

Although Rush and Recruitment are continuing around campus, orientation and Residence Exploration (REX) events are officially over. How has it been?

For the past week, freshmen have heard from professors, administrators, orientation leaders, and upperclassmen about life at MIT. As with Campus Preview Weekend, free food and introductions abounded all over campus. Incoming freshmen were given *The Hitchhiker's Guide to MIT Orientation 2016* at check-in, describing several events awaiting the new students. Meanwhile, each residence prepared its own events to promote its unique culture and lure freshmen participating in the First-Year Residence Exchange. From President Reif's Convocation to the freshman photo, orientation was a busy week for freshmen.

Typical of first days at a new school, freshmen began to bond and find friends. While orientation groups provided a base for friends, informal interviews with a number of freshmen revealed disappointment at being chained to their groups..

The variety of orientation events had mixed reviews — The Tech Theatre, Sex Signals, and Diversity sessions were con-

sidered successes, mostly. Margaret G. Guo '16, commented that the Diversity session "helped bridge the gaps between people and allowed you to get closer to people you normally wouldn't."

## As for the REX events, the highlights seemed to be Baker House and East Side parties.

The meaning of sexual consent presented in the Tech Theatre and Sex Signals skits were met with laughs, though some freshmen found the material redundant. Since the incoming 2016s were required to complete the Student Success Sexual Assault Prevention Program over the summer before arriving on campus, many had seen the information before.

Lakshmipriya Subbaraj '16, said that the Sex Signals session was "a funnier version of the online video, but with the exact same material."

Likewise, the Core Blitz session was almost identical to the videos posted on the Class of 2016 website. Many students

mentioned that they left Core Blitz before the end of the presentations or didn't go at all, favoring REX events (or sleep) instead. Rather than just a PowerPoint presentation from each professor, a professor panel where students could ask any lingering questions might have made the event more interactive and helpful to students, considering that most had already watched the online videos before arriving on campus.

In contrast, the Academic Expo and Activities Midway were huge successes, and the Johnson Ice Rink was packed full of freshmen asking questions about departments, programs, or student organizations they found interesting as they received free swag from every booth.

One new event for this year was called "By Students, for Students: Conquering MIT," where six current upperclassmen told their stories, concentrating on some common issues students face as they transition into MIT, such as illness, stress, and loneliness, among others. After listening to the speakers, freshmen met with their orientation leaders and had discussions with a representative from MIT Medical. Many freshmen in the orange orientation group found this session to be helpful in pointing out the different student resources avail-

able, such as Student Support Services (S<sup>3</sup>) and MIT Medical. A number of suggestions were made to improve the event for next year, such as allowing listeners to ask about the speakers' experiences.

As for the REX events, the highlights seemed to be Baker House and East Side parties. Baker projected its music to the rest of campus, and the East Campus courtyard was filled with hand-built rides for the frosh. Both had their respective parties on Monday, Aug. 27. While several freshmen attended both, the overwhelming response favored East Campus. Baker's Skyline Party was described afterwards as boring since not many people were there. Everyone seemed to be at the East Side party instead. However, some attendees thought Baker's party was still a highlight of REX. According to the Skyline Party's description, it is the "largest party of REX," since "over 500 freshmen attended last year." Perhaps the lackluster response from Baker's party resulted from its being scheduled on the same day and at the same time as the East Side party.

All in all, freshmen are enjoying their last few days before classes after a week of orientation and REX events, getting textbooks, finding their way around campus, and meeting new people!

## IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

# Choices, choices

Deciding which sorority to join is a holistic process

**By Katherine Chasins**

"It's All Greek To Me" tells the individual stories of MIT sorority girls. Check in every Tuesday to hear a new voice. Katherine Chasins is a junior in Courses 2-A and 15 and the vice president of public relations for the Panhellenic Association.

The reason one chooses to become a part of a sorority is hard to define and even harder to describe. It is the result of personal conversations and experiences, the effect of stories that have been shared with you, and the impact of individual members you have met. Each sorority on our campus is unique, has different things to offer, and will be the best fit for different girls.

All of this is very vague though, and when it was told to me my freshman year, I did not entirely believe it. I had no concept of how I would be able to distinguish which was truly best for me. Unfortunately, there is no formula. I couldn't just consider variables A, B, and C, rank their significance, assess each variable at each sorority, and then know for certain which sorority would be the perfect fit. That formulaic process is what I wanted, but joining a sorority does not work that way. The most sisters, the lowest dues, the biggest house — none of those easily definable qualities have any effect on what is most important in a sorority: the sisterhood.

Instead I had to experience the recruit-

ment process, which is at the same time wonderful, exciting, and sometimes overwhelming. The week was structured to give all potential sorority members a fair chance to explore every sorority by meeting sisters and taking house tours. As I progressed through it, I found myself making my decision in many ways with many things in mind — my personal values, what I wanted out of a sorority, and how I saw myself developing in each sorority during my time at MIT. I looked around at the women in each sorority and found something to admire in all of them — sincerity, passion, incredible academic achievement, and so much more.

## I found myself making my decision in many ways with many things in mind.

But there is a difference between admiration and aspiration, and when I looked at the women I met in what would end up being my sorority, they were the ones I truly wanted to emulate, though I did still have enormous amounts of respect and admiration for every other woman I had met. But still I was not entirely, whole-heartedly convinced that I was correct in choosing that sorority.

There is a story that is sometimes repeated during recruitment as a way of helping girls decide which sorority is best for them, and it is one that I was told when I was in that final stage of the decision making process, unsure if the choice I was making was correct. It goes something like this: "The sorority you have become a member of is having a formal event. Everyone has been instructed to wear white dresses and to be exactly on time. You are running a little late, and as you grab a bite to eat before you go, you spill tomato sauce all over the front of your white dress and have no time to fix it. You have to walk into that room full of pristine white dresses with tomato sauce all over you. Which group of women do you want waiting for you inside that room?"

When I considered this question, I never felt that any of the sororities I was considering would judge me or be cruel to me if that were to happen; I think that all MIT sorority women are better than that. However, I could envision them reacting in different ways. Some I could see passing it off as if nothing had happened; others I imagined rushing to take care of me, asking what had happened and offering to help fix my dress. But when I envisioned the reactions of the girls who would end up being my sisters, I saw them laughing with me, teasing me for being clumsy. And it might sound strange to others that those were the girls I wanted to make my sisters, but for me that would

be the perfect reaction. I wanted to find girls whom I could be close to in that way — close enough that they could laugh and make jokes so that I wouldn't take myself too seriously, because that ability to make light of an uncomfortable situation was something I needed. Most importantly, and what finally persuaded me that I was making the correct decision, was that when I envisioned them reacting this way, it did not at all seem poorly intended, because I was so convinced of their love for me that I would never doubt it.

## That ability to make light of an uncomfortable situation was something I needed.

Luckily for me, I have remained equally as convinced of their love every day since then. I made the right decision because I made it for myself, and I couldn't be happier. Making the right choice can seem really hard, and each person will have a different decision and different reasoning, but I hope the girls going through recruitment today can learn something from my story and find the same happiness that I feel so lucky to have found.

**Join The Tech!**  
**sports@tech.mit.edu**

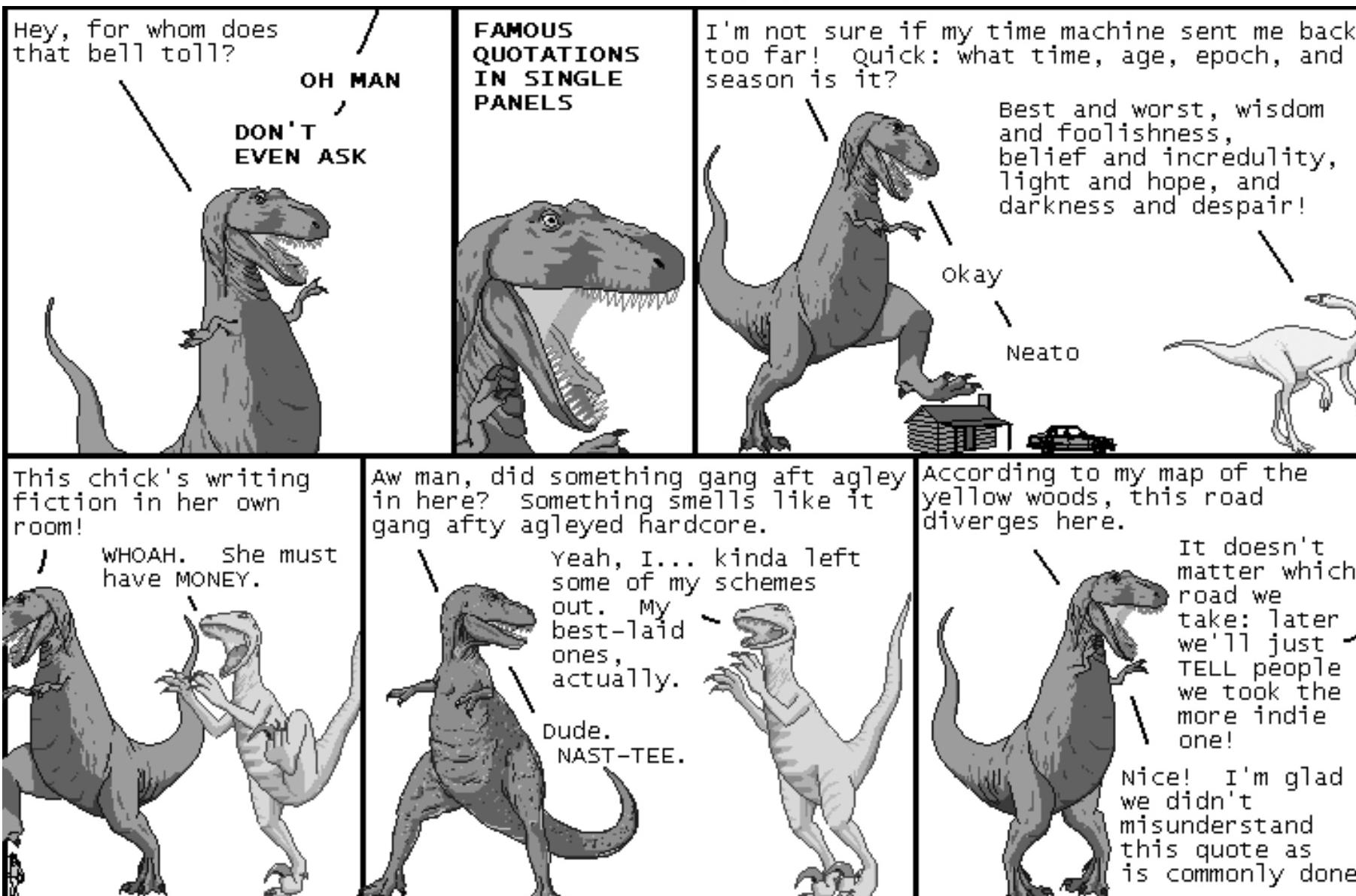
Have a burning desire to see these teams battle it out? In person?!

CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE CAMPUS LIFE



# **DINOSAUR COMICS**

by Ryan North



(C) 2012 Ryan North

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# SATURDAY STUMPFER

Solution, page 12

by Anna Stiga

ACROSS

- ACROSS**

  - 1 Victor at Actium
  - 8 Homeland Security responsibility
  - 15 Devoted
  - 16 Shakespeare's "primrose path" speaker
  - 17 Can't leave well enough alone
  - 18 Wash cycle
  - 19 It means "green"
  - 20 They're almost perfect
  - 21 Mars, for one
  - 26 "Birthplace of Democracy"
  - 30 Hopeful
  - 33 Ceiling, for short
  - 34 Oceans, for instance
  - 35 Expression of outrage against the powerful
  - 39 TV debut of 2000
  - 40 Uses heated air or pediculicide on
  - 41 Is acting boss
  - 46 Military tactic
  - 50 Georgia county named f

- DOWN**

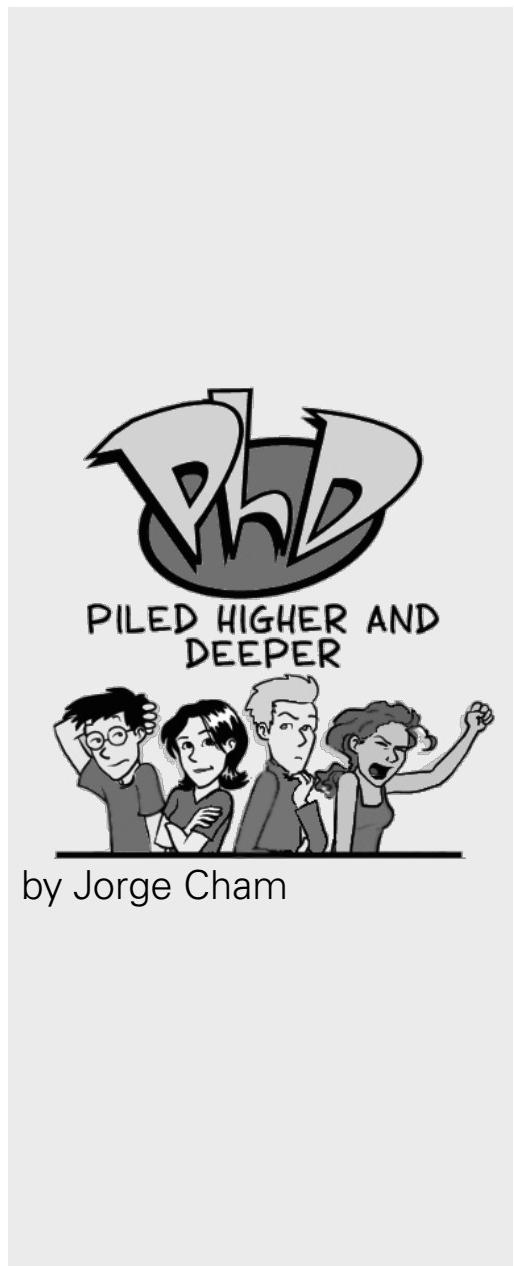
  - 1 Order of the \_\_ Eagle  
(Mexican medal)
  - 2 Berkshire Hathaway  
company
  - 3 Wouldn't shut up
  - 4 Kind
  - 5 Author who influenced  
Verne
  - 6 Brita rival
  - 7 Shrek beast
  - 8 '80s best-selling science  
book
  - 9 Poker activity
  - 10 Slugfest souvenir
  - 11 Term

- 12 First successful American automaker
  - 13 Metaphorical entanglement
  - 14 Remarks
  - 20 "If you done it, it \_\_ bragging": Whitman
  - 22 Legitimate
  - 23 Peut-\_\_ (perhaps: Fr.)
  - 24 Blacken
  - 25 \_\_ place
  - 27 Cosmetics oil source
  - 28 Situation
  - 29 Item of the past
  - 30 Mischievous
  - 31 Average
  - 32 It's handled in a nursery rhyme
  - 35 Civil War-era nickname
  - 36 Cosmetics oil source
  - 37 Starch source
  - 38 Stage director's concern
  - 40 Skilled
  - 42 Infernal
  - 43 Forrest Gump Oscar nominee

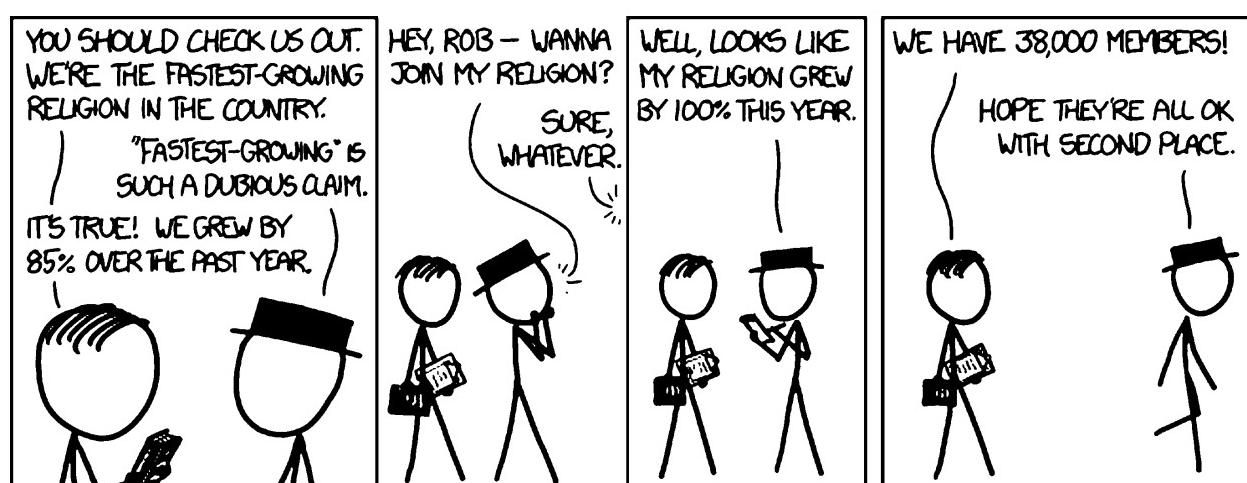
A crossword puzzle grid with numbered entries. The grid consists of a 10x10 grid of squares. Some squares are blacked out, forming various shapes such as rectangles and L-shapes. The numbered entries are as follows:

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (top row)
- 15 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 17 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 19 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 21 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 22, 23, 24, 25 (row below 21)
- 26 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 30, 31, 32 (leftmost squares of a horizontal row)
- 34 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 39 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 41 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 42, 43, 44, 45 (row below 41)
- 46 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 50, 51, 52 (leftmost squares of a horizontal row)
- 54 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 59 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 61 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 (top row of a vertical column)
- 16 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 18 (leftmost square of a vertical column)
- 20 (square at the intersection of row 19 and column 21)
- 27, 28, 29 (rightmost squares of a horizontal row)
- 33 (rightmost square of a horizontal row)
- 35, 36, 37, 38 (row below 34)
- 40 (square at the intersection of row 39 and column 41)
- 47, 48, 49 (rightmost squares of a horizontal row)
- 53 (rightmost square of a horizontal row)
- 55, 56, 57, 58 (row below 54)
- 60 (square at the intersection of row 59 and column 54)
- 62 (square at the intersection of row 61 and column 54)

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 44 Wonder Woman's beau                          | scandal                  |
| 45 They may be boutiques                        | 51 Table __              |
| 47 Operation __ Freedom<br>(2003-2011 conflict) | 52 Novel identifier      |
| 48 Place  | 55 Emergency message     |
| 49 Where planes meet                            | 56 TV debut of '72       |
| 50 Focus of a 2008 cheating                     | 57 Snap, Crackle, or Pop |
|   | 58 Moment                |



### [1102] Fastest-Growing



I lead a small but extraordinarily persuasive religion whose only members are door-to-door proselytizers from other faiths.

### Sudoku

Solution, page 13

				4				
	6			3	8			
	9		8	2				
7	4	1			3	6		
1	8	6			7	9	2	
3	9			6	5	4		
	3		5	9				
5		3			1			
		9						

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

### Techdoku

Solution, page 13

120x			2x		9+
	6x	16+			
1-		7+		60x	
	5x				8x
3		120x		6x	
					1
24x					

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

# Platforms seek to bring online education to world

## MIT and Harvard spearhead edX, while Udacity and Coursera have ties to Stanford

**Education**, from Page 1

Most of the videos, which tend to be around 10–15 minutes long, are on YouTube, with the exception of the Computer Science section, which contains integrated coding.

The instruction is oriented toward the casual learner as a sup-

plement to traditional classroom learning. The videos have practice problems with hints and solutions, and there are no “exams” like in edX or Udacity. Users can earn badges based on their time spent on the site and how many assignments they have completed. Students have individual profiles, which allows

teachers, coaches, and the students themselves to view summarized performance and achievement data. There are also forums that foster collaboration between students.

### UDACITY

Udacity is an organization founded in 2011 by Stanford researchers

David Stavens and Mike Sokolsky, and Google VP and former Stanford professor Sebastian Thrun, with the goal of “democratizing” education.

The idea began last year when Thrun, then a Stanford professor, offered his artificial intelligence class online so it could reach a broader audience. This audience would grow to over 160,000 students from 190 countries who enrolled in what would become Udacity’s first class.

The organization, which is funded by Charles River Ventures and \$300,000 of Thrun’s own money, will offer 14 STEM courses this fall in topics including algorithms, building a web browser, and cryptography. It currently has around 112,000 “active” students and instructors, with 739,000 total registrants. Instruction is offered in the form of free courses consisting of short, close-captioned video lectures by university professors, supplemented by quizzes and homework. Students can enroll in a course anytime after its launch, and all course content can be completed at the student’s pace.

Udacity has a unique system of certifications. Upon completion of a course, students receive a certificate of achievement signed by the instructor, with levels ranging from “Completion” to “Accomplishment with Highest Distinction.” In some

courses, students can pay a fee — currently \$89 for CS101 — to take a proctored exam at one of 4,500 testing centers to receive a certificate that can allow the student to “receive credit from employers, universities, and schools,” according to an August post on the Udacity blog. There are also secure, online examinations planned for the future.

Additionally, according to its FAQ page, Udacity also partners with over 20 technology companies, with the aim of introducing students to potential employers.

### COURSERA

Coursera was also founded by Stanford affiliates, computer science professors Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller, and is “committed to making the best education in the world freely available to any person who seeks it,” according to its website. It is a for-profit company, though it currently does not generate any revenue.

Coursera was launched shortly after Udacity, and offers courses from 16 universities, including Stanford, Princeton, and Caltech, but also universities in Scotland, India, Canada, and Switzerland. The courses contain video lectures by university professors, often weekly, and offer interactive exercises, quizzes and peer-graded essays to reinforce knowledge, helping students to “master the material.”

The company, which currently has a team of 20 people, is funded by several venture capital firms and investments from Caltech and the University of Pennsylvania, both partner institutions. Over 100 courses will be offered in Fall 2012, and the University of Washington will provide credit for its courses, which will feature enhanced communication with the instructor and monitored exams. There will also be a fee for the certificates of for-credit courses, according to an article by *The Seattle Times*. Coursera currently has around 680,000 students, mostly outside the U.S. Its courses are free, but backer John Doerr stated in a *Times* article that “learners should ‘opt in’ for valuable, premium services,” which will generate revenue for the company.

### edX

edX, unlike the other organizations, is a venture spearheaded by universities themselves — not individual entrepreneurs and professors — and was conceived as a platform to provide an MIT-calibre education to anyone who wants it. EdX, announced in May, grew out of the MITx initiative — the brainchild of MIT President L. Rafael Reif (then MIT’s provost) and Professor Anant Agarwal. It was branded as an open platform that other universities could join and leverage for their own residential education purposes. Since its inception, the University of California, Berkeley has become a part of the venture. Each member institution labels edX courses under their own names, e.g. HarvardX, BerkeleyX, and MITx, and all three will be offering courses this fall. 6.002x, a circuits and electronics course offered by MIT and taught by Agarwal, was MITx’s first prototype course and has already seen its first class graduate. Over 150,000 users from around the world signed up, and slightly over 7,000 passed the course and earned a certificate. EdX is financed mostly by its member institutions — Harvard and MIT have committed \$30 million each so far. Courses and certifications are currently free, but edX has plans to begin charging for more robust types of certification in the future. In any case, edX officials have said the course content will be free to users who just want to browse. Like its competitors, edX may eventually seek revenue through partnerships with private employers, connecting high-performing and certified students to suitable jobs.



#### UNIVERSITIES

Offers courses from individual professors rather than university backers

#### INITIAL COURSE LAUNCH

February 2012

#### ORIGIN

Grew out of Stanford’s Introduction to AI, launched in October 2011

#### REGISTRANTS

More than 739,000

#### COURSES OFFERED

Offers 14 courses, 11 of which are in computer science

#### FOUNDERS

Founded by Stanford computer science professor



#### UNIVERSITIES

Offers courses from MIT, Harvard, UC Berkeley

#### INITIAL COURSE LAUNCH

September 2012

#### ORIGIN

Grew out of MITx’s first course, Circuits and Electronics, launched in March 2012

#### REGISTRANTS

Circuits and Electronics attracted 155,000 registrants

#### COURSES OFFERED

Will offer 7 initial courses, 5 of which are in computer science or electrical engineering

#### FOUNDERS

Founded by MIT and Harvard as a not-for-profit

INFOGRAPHIC BY LEON LIN AND ANTHONY YU

Hello, we’re **Hudson River Trading**. Give us a few nanoseconds and you’ll be hooked. We are **MIT**, Harvard, Carnegie Mellon, Stanford, and more. We are bachelors, masters and PhDs; **physicists & statisticians**, **engineers & mathematicians**. At HRT, responsibility is **distributed** according to individual impact, so a **systems** engineer will spend every day working on challenging **computer science** problems. Become an **algo developer** and you might find yourself looking at **massive** amounts of market **data** and using a variety of tools to come up with **complex** strategies. If you are a **hacker** who wants to work in a **powerful computing** environment, we want **programmers** who can **reduce latency** and increase throughput, in a place where every second counts. And **don’t be fooled** – we’re not a typical finance company; our **coders** are the most important investment we have – and they know it. It’s no secret that your **compensation** will be **high** and you will be rewarded **based on** performance. Unlike other firms, our developers work in **parallel** with algo, because we know **programming skills** are a major part of what makes us **successful**. We know you might think we’re a bunch of suits, but that’s simply not true. We’re **geeks who use FreeBSD**, and even have **kernel committers** on staff. So, if you’re thinking about **going to** Silicon Valley to work for a **tech company**, remember that’s what we are and more: grub-loving, foosball-playing, challenge-seeking problem solvers. **Sound like you too? We ht you. <3**

HRT will be on campus for the fall career fair on **September 21** and for an info session in Building 26, Room 302 on **September 17**, 6 PM.

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**Institute Double Take**

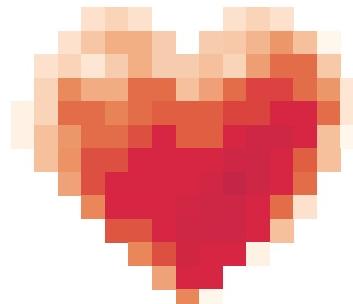
**Christopher A. Maynor**  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

One of the many metal plates in the sculpture in the MIT Chapel sculpted by Italian-born artist Harry Bertoia is angled just so, reflecting bright evening light into the lens while the others dimly radiate a soft glow in other directions.

**Aperture:**  
f/1.4  
**Exposure Time:**  
1/250 sec.  
**Sensitivity:**  
ISO 800  
**Effective Focal Length:**  
24 mm

math wiz?  
ninja coder?

**we HRT you.**



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Monday, September 17 | 6 PM  
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# Taste the Adventure.

**Birthright Israel Trip Winter Break 2012-2013**

## Registration

For previous applicants: September 10, 12pm

For ALL APPLICANTS: September 12, 10am

### Steps to register:

1. Go to [IsraelwithIsraelis.com](http://IsraelwithIsraelis.com)
2. Create a login and fill in your personal information
3. Select Shorashim as your trip provider and MIT/Boston Campus as your trip.

### Questions?

Email Shoshana at  
[Birthright@mit.edu](mailto:Birthright@mit.edu)

**Info Session: September 9, 6:00pm, W11 (Small Dining Room)**



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# Grad Orientation

## Grad events from September 4 - 6

**Tuesday, Sept. 4**

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Reception Under the Stars (\$, 21+) [Hayden Library]

This cocktail reception co-hosted by the MIT Graduate Student Council and the MIT libraries is a chance to pull out your party dresses, feast on hors d'oeuvres, and sip on a glass of wine while surrounded by great works of literature. Guests can explore the library or head out to the courtyard to chat below the stars. \*The event is open to spouses & partners but is not suitable for children. \*Alcohol and admission require a 21+ photo ID (U.S. issued ID or passport). \*A ticket must be purchased at the Info Booth prior

to the event. \*Ticket price: \$7 MIT  
\*Business casual required.

**Wednesday, Sept. 5**

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

GSC Dinner & Open House [Morss Hall]

Come meet-and-greet leaders of the Graduate Student Council (GSC) and get the inside scoop for the upcoming year while enjoying a fantastic dinner and free drinks! In addition to great company, this open house will feature manned stations, each dedicated to discussing a certain aspect of the GSC mission. GSC programs and initiatives, like graduate student orientation, rely on the dedication and involvement of graduate students. This is a great opportunity to consider how you can get involved! \*The event is open to spouses & partners but is not suitable for children. \*Admission open to all. Alcohol requires a 21+ photo ID (U.S. issued ID or passport).

8 p.m. – 1 a.m.

**Pub Crawl (21+) [Thirsty Ear Pub]**

There's more to being a grad student at MIT than labs and classes. This is your chance to explore the pubs and night spots around Cambridge while you get to know other new and senior MIT grad students. \*The event is open to spouses & partners but is not suitable for children. \*Alcohol and admission require a 21+ photo ID (U.S. issued ID or passport). \*Some bars are cash only.

**Thursday, Sept. 6**

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

**Spouses & Partners Happy Hour (21+) [Champions Sports Bar]**

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Diversity & Minority Networking Social [Black Student Union]

The MIT Office of the Dean for Graduate Education (ODGE) and the Graduate Student Council invite you to the annual Graduate Welcome Event for minority students. This is your opportunity to meet new grad students and reconnect with old friends as well as familiarize yourself with the ODGE and GSC resources. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. \*This event is open to spouses and partners.

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# After \$20 mil sale in 2006, Reddit sees great success

*Mostly left alone by parent company, Reddit operates autonomously and flourishes*

**Reddit**, from Page 1

serves up more than three billion page views a month.

With its basic graphics, endless links and discussions, Reddit can seem like peering into a bowl of spaghetti, but it has surpassed better-known aggregating sites like Digg to become a force on the Web. Occasionally, as in the instance of the Colorado shootings, it takes control of a news story early. Built on open-source software and guided by the ethos of its community, estimated by Quantcast to be 20 million users a month, it is a classic Web start-up in which opportunity seems mixed with barely controlled anarchy.

So who are the silky venture capitalists or young lions of Valley technology who own this vast unruly kingdom? That would be Advance Publications, the home of Condé Nast, the magazine company that bought Reddit back in 2006 for a reported \$20 million. That kind of deal

is usually a signal that a ritual sacrifice was about to begin in which a clueless old media company snaps up a hot Web property and proceeds to squeeze the life out of what it just bought.

But that is not what happened. Steve Newhouse, the chairman of Advance.net, decided very early on that his company would not be the blob that ate Reddit, and for the most part, left well enough alone. "We had some ideas about what would be good, but it might not have worked," Mr. Newhouse said. "We paid attention to the community instead."

Its two founders, Steve Huffman and Alexis Ohanian, stayed on after the sale for three years — a feat unto itself. And when it became clear that Reddit was hamstrung in competition for leadership and engineers as part of Condé Nast, the company was spun out as an operationally independent subsidiary in 2011.

During that time, it threatened to become an also-ran in the what-

have-you-done-for-me-lately world of social media. Then Digg, which had been the leader among communities formed around the aggregation of links, made some poorly received changes and users fled to Reddit.

**During that time, it threatened to become an also-ran in the what-have-you-done-for-me-lately world of social media.**

"Strategically, what they have done should be a model of how to create and support a virtual startup within a larger corporation," said Anil Dash, a writer and entrepreneur in digital realms. "Condé gave it enough rope and left the people there to their own devices. I don't

know whether it was a brilliant strategy or accidental neglect, but the founders did not leave, the community stayed intact, and the site grew beyond anybody's expectations."

In the context of a company that owns Vogue and The New Yorker, Reddit is a deeply weird place. Links are voted up or down by a community that is full of pseudonyms, which has the odd effect of prompting users to be very intimate and remarkably candid, albeit as avatars. The community is chiefly young male and extremely wired. It can be a casually misogynistic place, and the site has all the retro graphic appeal of Craigslist, which is to say, not much.

Reddit is not an exception to every rule in the digital world. Like many digital media companies, it has a big audience and minuscule revenue. Bob Sauerberg, president of Condé Nast and a member of the board of the independent company, says that is fine by him.

"We think it has huge poten-

tial and we want to make sure that we scale that," he said. "There will be ample opportunity to monetize what they have built as it grows, and it will be a very big business."

In the spring, Advance hired Yishan Wong, a former software engineer at Facebook and engineering manager at PayPal, as the chief executive — an unconventional choice because he had little executive management experience. And Mr. Ohanian came back as a board member, yet another odd circumstance.

"When we sold the site, I ended up with a life-changing — at least for me — amount of money, and I thought the least I could do was make good on my end of it, so I knew I would stay for the life of the contract," he said. "We'd have quarterly meetings with Steve, but for the most part, Steve just seemed to think that if we were able to start the company on \$12,000, that we probably wouldn't screw it up."

It can make for some jarring juxtapositions. Advance is a privately held company that keeps a tight rein on information of all sorts, yet Reddit is built on open-source software free for the taking or tweaking. The site has harnessed user energy and creativity to self-police the forums and grow in all sorts of unpredictable directions. It is, in media terms, about as far away from the glossy editorial values of Condé Nast as you can get.

"We ran into some annoying human resources bureaucracy when we tried to hire people, but we run lean and don't make a lot of hires, so that didn't come up a lot," Mr. Ohanian said. "For the most part, we were given a ludicrous level of autonomy. You have to give them credit where credit is due."

## Solution to Crossword

from page 6

A	G	R	I	P	P	A	C	U	S	T	O	M	S
Z	E	A	L	O	U	S	O	P	H	E	L	I	A
T	I	N	K	E	R	S	S	P	I	N	D	R	Y
E	C	O				A	M	I	N	U	S	E	S
C	O	N	F	E	C	T	O	N	E	R	O	N	E
A	S	P	I	R	A	N	T				M	A	X
R	O	A	R	E	R	S	J	A	C	C	U	S	E
C	S	I				D	E	L	O	U	S	E	S
H	O	L	D	S	T	H	E	F	O	R	T		
G	W	I	N	E	T		A	I	R	O	F	F	E
M	I	S	G	I	V				R	E	D		
A	N	B	E	S	O				S	H	E	B	A
T	E	N	D	E	R				E	G	A	N	G
T	E	N	D	E	R				O	B	L	I	Q
E	N	D	E	R					T	D	O	F	I

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### Solution to Techdoku

from page 7

4	6	5	1	2	3
1	3	2	4	5	6
6	2	1	3	4	5
5	1	6	2	3	4
3	5	4	6	1	2
2	4	3	5	6	1

### Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

8	2	1	5	6	4	3	7	9
5	6	7	2	9	3	4	8	1
4	3	9	7	8	1	2	6	5
7	4	5	1	2	9	8	3	6
1	8	6	4	3	5	7	9	2
3	9	2	8	7	6	1	5	4
2	1	3	6	5	7	9	4	8
9	5	8	3	4	2	6	1	7
6	7	4	9	1	8	5	2	3

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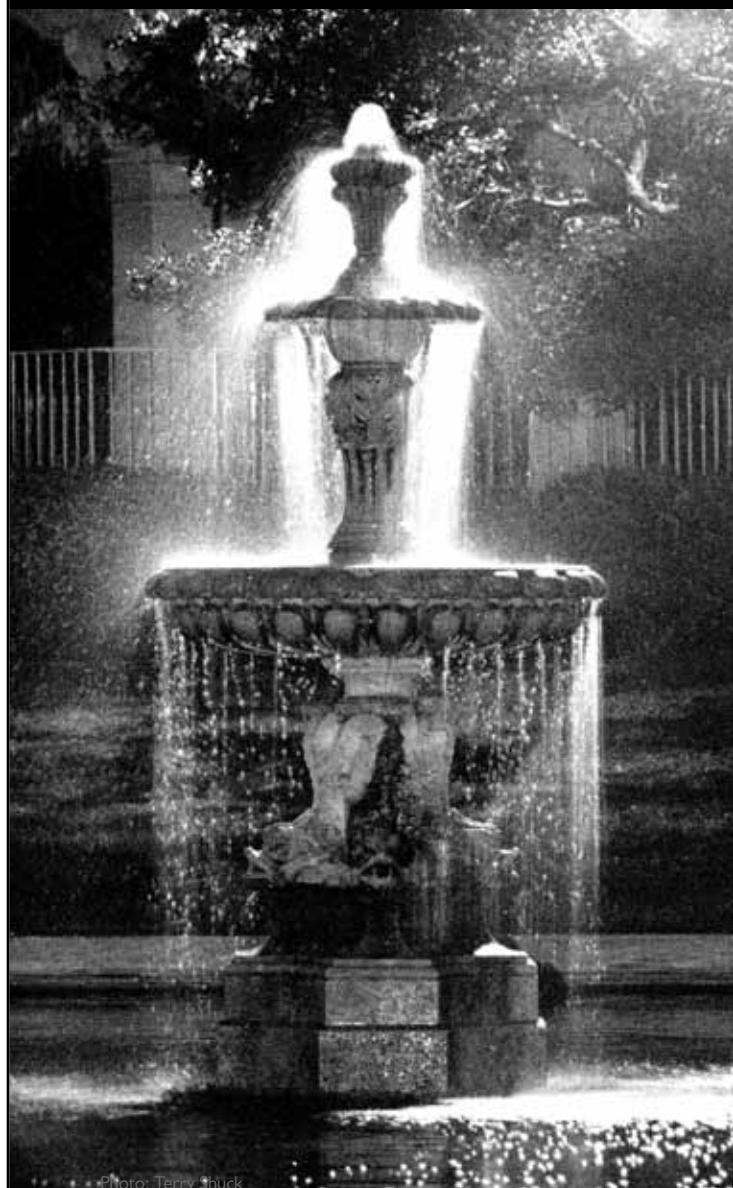


Photo: Terry Shuck

# RLAD position stirs controversy, Berkeley joins edX

*Novartis courtyard will remain open, construction on 300 Massachusetts Ave. on hiatus*

**Summer**, from Page 1

Two others from Burton-Conner House and Maseeh Hall were promoted from their previous position of Residential Life Associate (RLA), a role that was phased out at the end of the previous academic year as part of the RLAD implementation. Last week, however, *The Tech* learned that the former MacGregor RLAD is no longer employed by MIT. Humphreys said that he hopes to find a new person for the position as quickly as possible.

The RLADs will be living in the dorms in apartment spaces previously dedicated to RLAs. In dorms where these spaces do not exist, notably in MacGregor and New House, renovations are being made to consolidate rooms to make these apartment spaces. The construction of these apartments does not displace any students. Humphreys said that work on the New House space has already started, while the location for the MacGregor RLAD apartment has yet to be finalized.

According to Humphreys, the housemasters of the remaining dormitories — Baker House, Bexley House, East Campus, Random Hall, and Senior House — will meet with their respective communities about their RLADs in the early fall.

**The remaining dorms will meet with their respective communities about their RLADs in the early fall.**

## Berkeley joins edX

On July 24, University of California, Berkeley joined edX — the online education venture started by MIT and Harvard University — and will offer two online classes this fall, adding to the five existing classes already on edX. In total, edX will contain seven classes this fall, including BerkeleyX courses "Software as a Service" and "Artificial Intelligence."

Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau of Berkeley — also former dean of science at MIT — said that many people at the institution, from senior leadership members to faculty, have been thinking about internet education for the last couple of years. "When Rafael announced MITx and the edX partnership with Harvard, we looked at their mission statement and we got very excited about edX," said Birgeneau, referring to MIT's President L. Rafael Reif. "I called up Rafael and ended up having a conversation with him about Berkeley joining them, since

their vision for online education was consonant with ours."

Both MIT and Berkeley leaders have said that the development of massive open online courses will not only help spread education globally, but will also enhance on-campus education at universities. MIT Chancellor Eric L. Grimson PhD '80 said the Institute plans to engage in a variety of experiments to improve on-campus education, ranging from "flipped classrooms" — in which teachers guide interactive activities in class while students are instructed by online videos outside of class — to online "immediate student assessment and feedback" and discussion groups.

As the founding universities of edX, MIT and Harvard both contributed \$30 million toward the project. At this time, Berkeley will not be matching this contribution, but will lead the to-be-formed "X Universities" consortium.

Courses offered in the fall include 6.002x Circuits and Electronics (MITx) and PH207x Health in Numbers (HarvardX). 6.002x was a pilot course launched by MITx in December 2011, with over 150,000 people registered worldwide for the initial offering.

## Mass. Ave. construction on hiatus

Thailand Cafe and All Asia may be here to stay for a while. On Aug. 6, Cambridge City Council chose not to take action on the zoning petition which would approve construction of a new life sciences building for Millennium Pharmaceuticals at 300 Massachusetts Avenue, displacing the two venues. The building would occupy the block immediately north of Random Hall, directly in front of Star Market. Forrest City and MIT, the developers of University Park (the area in which the building would lie) are expected to refile the petition in September. It will not be voted on again until October or November. Cambridge residents had previously opposed the zoning petition approval, questioning why the building should be allowed to exceed agreed-upon height limits that were written into zoning.

For the time being, Random Hall residents can look forward to a fall semester without massive demolition on their block, but this could easily change.

## Plans for Novartis park approved

Students passing by Novartis at their new campus sitting between three buildings at 181–211 Massachusetts Avenue will be able to pass through the future lush green courtyard seven days a week.

On July 17, the Cambridge Planning Board reviewed Novartis' plans for fencing its public access

courtyard at the new Novartis campus and rejected the plans due to

to be finished next year.

## In mid-August, MIT and 13 peer institutions filed an amicus curiae brief before the Supreme Court of the United States in *Fisher v. University of Texas*.

concerns over the courtyard security, requiring Novartis to come back with a new proposal. Novartis agreed to keep the courtyard open in response to requests and feedback from the Cambridge Planning Board.

The new Novartis campus on the east side of Massachusetts Avenue will be 50 percent devoted to a public green courtyard, as a condition of the zoning petition that allows some parts of the new campus to reach 125 feet in height, as well as other miscellaneous zoning relief.

The new campus is currently under construction and is expected

## MIT files amicus brief in *Fisher v. University of Texas*

In mid-August, MIT and 13 peer institutions filed an amicus curiae brief before the Supreme Court of the United States in *Fisher v. University of Texas*, supporting the respondent University of Texas in the view that race could be used as one of many factors in a holistic admissions process. The brief highlighted the importance of diversity in college admissions, warning that "a decision questioning or repudiating the principles in [Grutter v. Bollinger] could significantly impair [their] ability to achieve their educational missions."

*Fisher v. University of Texas* was brought before the U.S. District Court in 2008 by Abigail N. Fisher, a white applicant who claimed the University of Texas at Austin's admissions policy unconstitutional after being denied admission. The district court upheld the university's decision, citing the 2003 case *Grutter v. Bollinger*, in which the Supreme Court upheld the affirmative action admissions policy of the University of Michigan Law School in a 5-4 vote. Fisher has since then brought her case to the Supreme Court, where it will be decided by an eight-member Court on Oct. 10, 2012. Because Justice Elena Kagan — who had previously played some role in the case as a U.S. solicitor general — withdrew from the case, according to SCOTUSblog, it is possible the Supreme Court decision could come to a 4-4 ruling, which would uphold the University of Texas' admissions policy.

*Summaries compiled by Deborah Chen and Stanley Gill*

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# Volleyball team wins 4 matches Sweeps Regis Invitational

**By Paul Dill**  
TEAM COACH

MIT Women's Volleyball swept all four of its matches this past weekend to take the Regis Pride Invitational Championship. Kristine A. Bunker '14 was named to the All-Tournament Team and Tatiana Berger '14 was named the Tournament MVP.

MIT defeated Husson in their match of the tournament, 3-0, as 13 of the 16 MIT players that saw the floor registered at least one kill in the 25-16, 25-10, 25-13 win. Meryl E. Gibbs '16 led all players with six kills, while Berger was instrumental in getting the team big kills when they needed them. Helping set up the offense, Nicole C. Gagnier '15 and Alyssa L. Rothman '13 combined to hand out 19 assists. Katie K. Spielbauer '13 led the Engineers with six digs, while Leonard added five of her own in the win.

After a slow start in their second match, the Engineers dropped the first set before coming back to defeat Worcester State, 3-1 (18-25, 25-15, 25-23, 25-15). Bunker posted a match-high 12 kills, while Trinity P. Leonard '13 chipped in with 11 of her own in the win. Jennifer L. Astrachan '15 just missed double-digit kills, adding nine kills. Gagnier '15 dished out a match-high 36 assist and

added five kills and four digs. Spielbauer '13 paced the Engineers defense with 14 digs, while five MIT players combined for seven total blocks.

**In the tournament final, MIT needed four sets to dispose of WPI.**

MIT advanced to the Championship Match of the tournament with a 3-0 (25-13, 25-15, 25-13) win over host Regis College in the semi-finals. Sharon S. Hao '14 was also instrumental for the win, playing with tremendous defense, good passing and five service aces.

In the tournament final, MIT needed four sets to dispose of WPI as the Engineers took home the Pride Invitational Championship with a 3-1 win by set scores of 25-14, 22-25, 25-18, 25-10. Bunker notched a game-high 12 kills and added four block assists to lead MIT. Berger and Astrachan added eight kills apiece while Gagnier handed out a game-high 38 assists. Berger also added three service aces to go with 10 digs for the Engineers.

Next weekend the Engineers will travel to Chicago to play in the North Park University Invitational Tournament.



AKIMITSU HOGGE—THE TECH  
Scott A. Stephens '14, in black, looks for a pass in the water polo game against Diablo Valley College in the Labor Day Invite on Sept. 1. MIT lost to DVC 13-7 but defeated both Harvard and Yale earlier in the day, 19-7 and 23-7 respectively.

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